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Honorable Members of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee:

My name is Susan Pronovost, Executive Director to the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association, Waterbury, Connecticut. This organization represents the educational and business interests of more than 200 greenhouse growers in the State of Connecticut.


I would like to take this opportunity to conditionally support the spirit of HB 5290, *An Act Sunsetting the Highway Use Tax*.

Our members in the Connecticut green industry would be happy see the original legislation decreeing the Highway Use Tax to be eliminated, as it adds another financial burden to the already slim margins each greenhouse grower is experiencing due to high energy, supply, and labor costs.

We, however, do not wish to see legislation introduced – potentially at the late hour that will undoubtedly conclude the current legislative session - as a replacement for this revenue that would be far more onerous to our members after the sunset of this current legislation. We ask the Committee to tread upon a pathway that offers a realistic solution to this financial burden with the assurance to our members and other Connecticut businesses that transport goods around the state, that it will not be replaced with something that will impact every vehicle in Connecticut on a more meaningful level.

Thank you for consideration of our comments. As always, this industry stands ready to offer further testimony or opportunities for productive dialogue.

Sincerely,

  
Susan Pronovost  
Executive Director